

ICED 2010 Awards Ceremony a Success

Rocco J. Claps, IDHR Director and Co-Chairperson of the State Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED), welcomed a capacity crowd of state employees, community organizations, and employees with disabilities to the Department of Agriculture's auditorium to the 2010 ICED Awards Ceremony. Also in attendance were IDHR Deputy Director Bobbie Wanzo, and Chief Legal Counsel Raymundo Luna, who presented the awards for the Employee of the Year and the Organization of the Year, respectively.

The 2010 Employee of the Year, Larry Stockdale, a disabled veterans' representative of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, was honored for a 30-year outstanding employment record and service to the state of Illinois. Mr. Stockdale "raised the bar for excellence," with his devotion to duty and commitment to veterans with disabilities.

The 2010 Organization of the Year, The Heart of a Marine Foundation, was honored for its mission of providing support, financial assistance, and educational resources to improve the quality of life of military personnel and veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Two particular programs of note provided by the Foundation are its Aphasia Project, which helps brain injured-veterans in recovering language skills and the Walking Tall Project, which provides canes with orthopedic hand grips to reduce hand irritations and blisters. Accepting this award were the Foundation Directors, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, who began the Foundation as a tribute to their son who was killed in action.

Other award winners are listed below:

- Gregg Newberry, Department of Human Services
- Tommy Saunders, Department of Human Services
- Benro Ogunyipe, Department of Human Services
- Mshenda Diming, Department of Human Rights
- Disabilityworks, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Living Independently Now Center for Independent Living
- Transitions of Western Illinois
- Self-Employment Resources Network

The Awards Ceremony featured a Disability Jeopardy game with prizes, an "Ask the Expert" panel of disability experts, and refreshments. Assistance for the event was provided by the Departments of Human Services and Transportation. The ICED Awards Workgroup, which planned the event, was comprised of Sue Masten, Department of Human Services, Elaine Lazell, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and Susan Allen, of the Department of Human Rights. ICED's mission is to improve access and opportunity for state employees with disabilities.